

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From: INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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| To<br><br>see form PCT/ISA/220   | <b>PCT</b><br><br>WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL<br>SEARCHING AUTHORITY<br><br>(PCT Rule 43bis.1)<br>Dispatch date<br>(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second page) |  |
| Applicant or authorised representative file reference<br>see form PCT/ISA/220                            | FOR FURTHER ACTION<br>See point 2 below   |  |
| International application No.<br>PCT/FR2004/001289   | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>25/05/2004  | Priority date (day/month/year)<br>28/05/2003 |
| International patent classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC<br>E05D7/10, A47J37/06 |   |  |
| Applicant<br>SEB SA  |   |  |

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| <p>1. This report contains indications and the corresponding pages relating to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of opinion</li> <li>II     <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III    <input type="checkbox"/> No formulation of opinion with respect to novelty, inventive activity and possibility of industrial application</li> <li>IV    <input type="checkbox"/> No invention unit</li> <li>V     <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justified statement according to regulation 66.2(a)(ii) with respect to novelty, inventive activity and possibility of industrial application; references and explanations to support this statement</li> <li>VI    <input type="checkbox"/> Certain reference documents</li> <li>VII   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irregularities in international application</li> <li>VIII   <input type="checkbox"/> Observations relating to international application</li> </ul> <p>2. FURTHER ACTION</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p> |  |
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3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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| Name and postal address of international<br>preliminary examining authority                                      | Authorised official                           |
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Form PCT/IPEA/237 (cover page) (January 2004)

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE International Application  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY No. PCT/FR2004/001289  
IAP16 23 NOV 2005

I. Basis of report

1. Concerning the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated.  
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the language in which the international application was filed into the following language, which is the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. Concerning **nucleotide or amino acid sequences** divulged in the international application (if applicable), the international preliminary examination was carried out based on the listing of sequences:
  - a. Type of material a sequence listing table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. Format of material on paper in written form in electronic form
  - c. Time of filing/furnishing contained in the international application as filed filed together with the international application in electronic form furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of the search
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**II. Priority**

1.  The following document(s) have not yet been submitted:

- a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43bis.1 and 66.7(a))
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43bis.1 and 66.7(a))

Consequently, the validity of the priority claim has not been considered. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2.  This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Complementary observations if applicable:

**V. Justified statement according to Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with respect to novelty, inventive activity and the possibility of industrial application; references and explanations to support this statement**

1. Declaration

|                          |      |        |      |
|--------------------------|------|--------|------|
| Novelty                  | Yes: | Claims | 1-19 |
|                          | No:  | Claims |      |
| Inventive activity       | Yes: | Claims | 1-19 |
|                          | No:  | Claims |      |
| Industrial applicability | Yes: | Claims | 1-19 |
|                          | No:  | Claims |      |

2. References and explanations

**See separate sheet**

**VII. Irregularities in the international application**

The following irregularities, in the form or contents of the international application, have been noted.

**See separate sheet**

**Concerning point V**

Document EP-A-0646344, which is considered to be the prior art closest to claim 1, describes a household apparatus according to the preamble of claim 1.

The problem that the present invention is intended to solve can be considered to be that of providing a household appliance comprising two panels pivotably connected to one another by a hinge, which can be handled by the user so as to enable the user, in a simple and reliable manner, to separate and reassemble the two panels.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1, involves the use of a hinge of which the hinge element is capable of moving between a retracted position in which it cannot penetrate a recess so as to enable the two panels to be separated, and a pivoting position in which it is suitable for penetrating the recess and performing the pivot when the two panels are properly arranged with respect to one another. The apparatus also includes a control element that comprises a gripping member enabling it to be moved manually between a releasing position and a locking position, and which is suitable for cooperating with the hinge element so that the latter is in its retracted and pivoting positions when the control element is in its releasing and locking positions, respectively.

Thus, the user can easily separate and reassemble the two panels pivotably connected by the hinge.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore considered to be novel and to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also satisfy, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

The subject matter of claims 1-19 is obviously industrially applicable (PCT Article 33(4)).

**Concerning point VII**

The description does not cite any document reflecting the closest prior art (PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii)).